seems to go on steadily, and, with each successive reduction in price, it is said to advance in a still greater measure.——On Friday in week before last the first stone of the long-talked-of new floating dock was laid at Limerick. One of the commissioners of the board of works stated that the board had but 50,000*l.* to complete the work, which it had taken under its own management.

NORMANTON CHURCH, DERBYSHIRE.

The village of Normanton is built on the brow of a hill overlooking a portion of the county town of Derby, from which it is distant about 1½ mile. It was this village which gave birth to Jedediah Strutt, who invented the machine for making ribbed stockings in 1758, in conjunction with his brother-in-law, then a hosier in Derby. From this invention many most extensive fortunes have been realized. He was an ancestor of the late Joseph Strutt, who presented the Arboretum—laid out by the well-known Loudon—to the inhabitants of Derby.

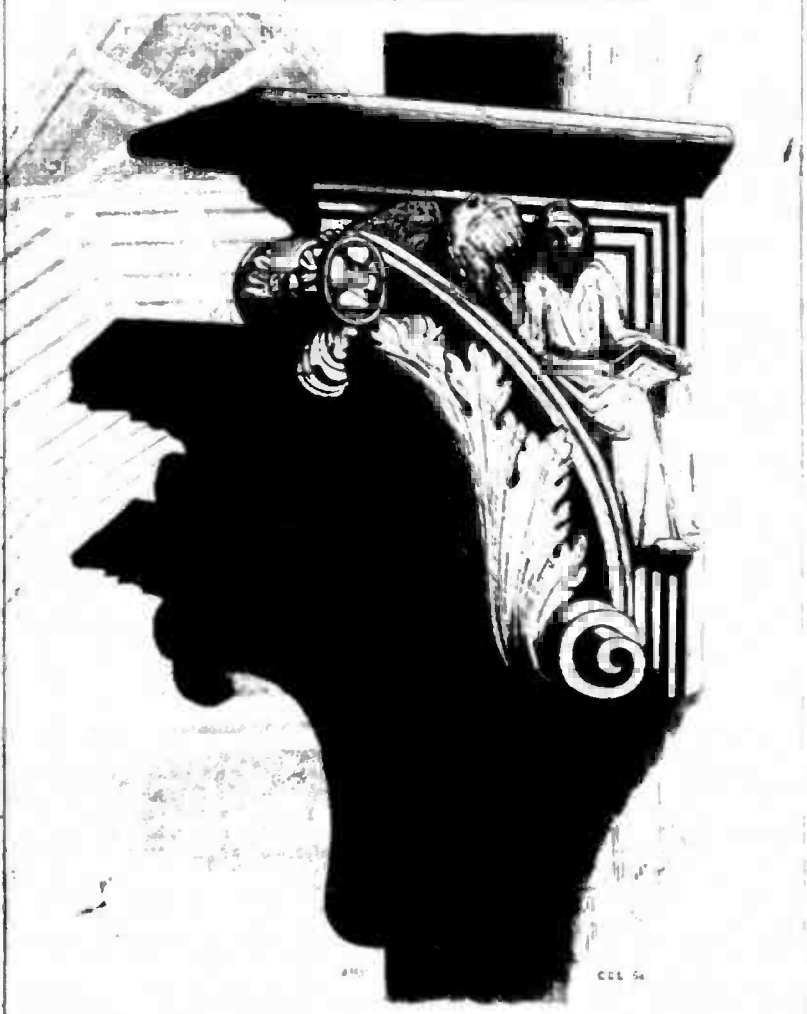
The church, the foundation of which is of great antiquity, mention being made of it in the Domesday Book, stands on the highest portion or summit of the hill, but is scarcely seen on a near approach, from the road being many feet lower than the surrounding ground. From the churchyard may be discerned the churches of Little-Over (itself a curiosity), Spondon, and Shelbourne. The churchyard, though apparently full, has few memorials of any interest. There is one, however, exceedingly novel in design, having perpendicular tracery filling in its margins. The quatrefoil, shield, &c., are well chiselled. The church stands east and west, and consists of nave, tower, and chancel, having a north and south doorway in nave, but no porch. The windows are few, and scarcely light the building sufficiently. The chancel fell down, or was removed, some years since,—an ugly excrescence being built on a portion of the original stone walls which was preserved. The nave and tower are of stone, doubtless obtained from the Swarkstone quarries, being similar to that used in the construction of the Swarkstone-bridge, which is three-fourths of a mile in length, and not more than 3 miles distant. The spire has apparently not been erected more than thirty years. What it was originally it is hard to say, as no traces or sketches are extant. The tower is not so wide as the nave,—the nave wall being finished on either side as a buttress. The chancel is opened to the nave by a semicircular arch, the crown of which has become much flattened; it is totally devoid of ornament, having merely a bead worked on the arris. The church was evidently a Norman erection, but has had so much of churchwardens' alterations and *improvements*, that it is difficult to find many traces of its original state. The southern doorway had a circular head, but was pulled down and re-erected with an equilateral arch, the chevron moulding of the original being worked around it in small pieces as a label, producing a curious effect. The corbel tables of roof of nave, with its grotesque heads, seem to have alone remained entire. They are, however, much injured by Time,—that destroyer of all things, and yet more sparing than the hands of those mortals whom it is continually crushing. With the exception of a small window in the tower, the whole of them are interpolations.

Not being able to obtain the key, save by a three miles walk, I was compelled to limit my scrutiny to a glance in at the windows, so cannot describe the roof, or the monuments, &c., of which there seem to be a few.

W. W.

Smithfield Market.—The Parliamentary Committee to whom this matter was referred reported their opinion, after taking much evidence, that *it ought to be removed*. They refer to the importance of a large open space, such as Smithfield, in the midst of a densely-populated district, and express a hope that in any contemplated alterations the greater portion of the present open space may be retained. The House of Commons do not seem disposed to attend to their committee's recommendation.

STEPS TO PULPIT, PISA CATHEDRAL.



STEPS TO PULPIT IN THE DUOMO AT PISA.

These original and beautiful steps are not the least interesting remains of Giovanni da Pisa's *capo d' opera*, the marble pulpit in the duomo of that city. It was one of the many glories of that noble pile ruined by the disastrous fire of 1596 (the plumbers, as usual, were the cause of the mischief). It was completely crushed by the falling in of the roof: the fragments collected after the fire were but few in number, and are now worked up in the present pulpit. These steps wind round a column in the nave, against which the pulpit is placed.

RATING GAS COMPANIES.

The rating of the property belonging to gas, water, and railway companies, to the relief of the poor, being now so much in dispute, every decision thereon is of importance.

On Friday, July 6th, a decision was made in the case of an appeal of the Phœnix Gas Company, against the assessment of their property to the poor-rate, in the parish of Greenwich, which assessment had been increased when the last rate was made, in April last, from the sum of 1,680*l.* to 5,671*l.* (both sums including the station and mains), without any alterations having been made by the company, to increase the value of their property in that parish.

The Phœnix Gas Company have very extensive *buildings* and *plant*, the mains extending into twenty-three parishes, with large manufacturing stations, at Vauxhall, Bankside, and Greenwich; also store stations in Kennington-lane and Wellington-street.

The parish officers, by the advice of their surveyor, Mr. Charles Penfold, valued the property belonging to the company, in the parish of Greenwich, as separate and distinct from the rest of the company's works and mains (although the whole is most intimately connected, also managed by one board of directors, having one office and only one set of clerks and officers), by which scheme, the whole value of the station and mains in Greenwich were assessed to the poor-rate of that parish, as well as a portion of the value of the gas rental of the other parishes, supplied with gas from the Greenwich station, for the reason that the gas used in these parishes passed through the mains laid in Greenwich parish. They then proceeded to ascertain the net rateable value, by assuming the rent which a tenant would give, "from year to year," for the whole property in Greenwich, with the right of supplying that and the other parishes now supplied from the Greenwich station, and this assumed rent was arrived at by finding the power of production (not the quantity produced), of gas, at the station in Greenwich; the result was—

Net rateable value of the station	£2,000
Do. of the mains in Greenwich, supplying gas in Greenwich only	2,924
Do. of the mains in Greenwich, supplying Lewisham	154
Do. of the mains in Greenwich, supplying other parts	593
Total net rateable value	£5,671

The surveyor of the Company, Mr. Lee, contended that the whole of the property belonging to the Company must be considered as one concern, and taken as a whole, and so

For a comprehensive guide on OCR and PDF Compression go to our website